



Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting

May 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting due to Shelter in Place Order via Zoom

Virginia M. Zic-Schlomas Presiding

Attendance:

	Name	Present	Absent
1.	Atwood, Tamela	X	
2.	Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra	X	
3.	Bree, Debra	X	
4.	Brandt, Michael	X	
5.	Brown, Leah	X	
6.	Christopherson, Mari	X	
7.	Cowart, Lark	X	
8.	Glick, Jill	X	
9.	Hamann, Paul	X	
10.	Hofmann, Molly	X	
11.	Karim, Elba	X	
12.	Ma, Cassandra	X	
13.	Mangiaracino, Kim	X	
14.	McNamara, Kathy	X	
15.	Milleville, Annette	X	
16.	Petrak, Channing	X	
17.	Porter, Chantelle		X
18.	Reynard, Charles		X
19.	Rivette, Char	X	
20.	Stine, Mary	X	
21.	Stoffer, Brian	X	
22.	Theus, Frederika	X	
23.	Torres, Rhiannon	X	
24.	Trotter, Dion	X	
25.	Zic-Schlomas, Virginia	X	
		14	
	Cobbins, Sherry	X	
	Davis-Barsh, Shirley	X	
	Hyman, Lindsay	X	
	McIntyre, James	X	

	Name	Present	Absent
	Melton, Carol	X	
	Polacheck, Stefanie	X	
	Stutz, Tierney	X	
	Talbert, Charles	X	

I. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone about 9:30 AM.

II. **Roll Call/Guests Introduced**

Stephen Budde, Executive Vice President , Juvenile Protective Association "JPA"
Kristin Dennis, JPA

III. **Approval of February Meeting Minutes:** Motion approved to accept with requested changes.

IV. **Public Comment via Open Meetings ACT:** Due to the Governor's State of Emergency and Shelter in Place Order, the Open Meetings Act requirements do not currently apply.

V. **Discussion on Pandemic Changes**

a. MDT Needs related to Pandemic.

Distancing, cleaning, connectivity that is HIPAA compliant. Discussed the need to be prepared going forward for each role within the Task Force. Needs assessment more useful training for supervisors for support. Child Death Review has also made this recommendation. States were not ready for this scenario. As of today's meeting no updates. No indication of additional funding relative to the pandemic.

VI. **Grantee Meeting Update – Char Rivette**

Char Rivette attended a Supervision and Self Care seminar and shared information on the following topics: Secondary traumatic stress, vicarious trauma and organizational stress. Children's Advocacy Centers collectively make up the largest singular group of child focuses therapists so it is imperative to understand how these types of stress and trauma impact those who treat children. **Char Rivette to provide link to presentation.**

Sherry Cobins shared that the Supervisory Practice Model for DCFS has been rolled out in 2019. **Sherry Cobbins to reach out to see if the leadership can come to present on this topic.**

VII. **Presentation by JPA**

Ginny, Elba, and Paul met with JPA to discuss initial ideas. Presentation given by Stephen on initial ideas.

The Task Force discussed the importance of affirming that the needs of the past assessment still exist, and the pandemic definitely highlights some areas of additional concern. Would like to capture what we've learned in the past 8-10 weeks so it's not lost as part of the Needs Assessment.

The Task Force should access and partner with the National CAC to see what areas responded positively to the pandemic and develop best practice guidelines for disaster response. Would like to see some of this change adjust to become permanent and allow for better response and support.

Elba wrote a position paper on prevention that may be useful.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42448-019-00024-7>

JPA to invite Dr. Kim Mann to present on research.

The Task Force would also like to review what other states like Michigan have done. Michigan was at the bottom and has become an operational model for child welfare.

VIII. **CAC Perspective on the Pandemic – Kim Mangiaracino**

Change is not unique to CAC. Some of the services were delayed in order to deliver in person. Triageing was not sustainable. CACs were working remotely and responding. CAC employees are Essential Workers. Concern of backlog and tidal wave or cases that will get missed because the families are not available later. Seeing the children at the time of disclosure is critical (proven by research). Best practice is within 48 hours.

Hotline calls to DCFS are down 50% or more and calls to the CAC are also significantly decreased.

It is important to make people aware that the CAC is still there. The triage method is concerning as most of the time the initial piece of information is not the entire story and so cases delayed that should not be.

As the CAC is focused on prevention, reminding Mandated Reporters they need to report is critical.

Technology can be intimidating but may also be useful going forward.

Need for solid medical guidance on the physical protections necessary. Paul recommended the following webinar: This afternoon's webinar, at 4:00 PM, is being sponsored by the National Academy of Medicine and the American Public Health Association: <https://covid19conversations.org/webinar-registration>

Concern raised about youth offenders given the lack of adult supervision, access to the internet and pornography, and reluctance to report. Should be a component of the Needs Assessment.

Physical abuse is not being handled the same way across the state. Kim has some information on those numbers.

Deb Bree – Their challenges were lack of PPE, cleaning supplies, outbreak of Covid-19 within the office created a closure. Now have a remote place for interviews, rotation of individuals in the office.

Leah Brown – Technology has been a blessing and a curse. MDT meetings have occurred via Zoom with DCFS but law enforcement does not have the technology capabilities. Calls are way down but have not needed to Triage. PPE and cleaning supplies have continued to be a challenge.

Mari Christopherson – Illinois CASA, shared that prior to the pandemic, there were 300 assignments in a month, now down to 96 a month. Case closure rate 80 month, down to 40 a month. Concern raised about the bottleneck.

Stefanie Polacheck – DCFS sent letters to educators and medical providers about signs to look for in their role of mandated reporting in e-learning and telemedicine. Placement resources are being developed to help manage any potential wave of placements needed.

Char Rivette – The gap identified in the original Needs Assessment of those that qualify for CAC services, and those that are actually receiving services has not closed. Other states have a cross check to ensure no gap. There is a need to hold law enforcement accountable as part of the MDT. DCFS is accountable under the Governor's office, but law enforcement doesn't have a similar accountability or statutory requirement. Question posed about human trafficking during the pandemic. Cases are down. However, there have been higher levels of telehealth engagement with that population. Generally, telehealth has increased engagement levels, higher than ever. Technology may have the ability to increase contact with those victims. Do we look at the technology as a permanent solution. Is there an equity issue for the technology? Seems that there is. Can only access certain information when in the office. Needs to be considered as part of the Needs Assessment. As part of the Needs Assessment, is enough being done to increase reporting.

Elba Karim - Trauma Informed as a society. More support for the Foster Parents. Any support for the foster parent has to be very specific. Concern about lack of eyes on

children during the summer. For Needs Assessment, the tracking of abuse across state lines. In Washington DC, they have access to medical records as a provider.

Channing Petrak – Is there a state that does have a good coordinated child abuse response? Indiana suggested as a possible model. Child abuse is a medical diagnosis. Missing is the medical up front. Technology can be helpful here.

Jill Glick - MPeak has been a good model locally. MPeak has opened up as a source for second opinion state-wide.

James McIntyre – Raised the concern that children don't have the words for abuse, and the behavior is normalized. Florida Hotline system may be a source of model for us to look at as they have an on-line component that has medical information associated with call. Teach the public to understand what child abuse is in Illinois. Recommended that members reach out to their legislative representatives to encourage our recommendations. Town Hall

Michael Brandt – Court system is adjusting to the new technology. The court system may benefit from the efficiency and time savings from the shift.

Tamala Atwood – Concerns with access for kids to child abuse medical provisions, especially in less urban areas. Delays for fresh injuries due to Covid and symptoms.

Capture in Needs Assessment: Texting, telehealth

IX. Budget for Needs Assessment

Sherry Cobbins provided an update that there is about \$29,500 left for this year. Fee for JPA has not been set yet.

Ginny Zic-Schlomas researched the cost to send 4 people to Lansing, Michigan to meet. Cost about \$2,200. Would like we factor in the budget for next year in the event we are able to travel. Must be requested at least 30 day in advance. Task Force to start working on travel plans now in anticipation. Task Force should consider virtual meetings in the event travel is now opened up. Virtual would allow other meetings with alternate states. May be an opportunity to research where an in-person meeting may be beneficial.

Submit outstanding voucher for travel re-imbursement. Final report due May 30. Fiscal Year ends September 30, 2020.

X. New Business:

Increase of Reporting: Task Force would like to hear from DCFS on what is being done to increase reporting. Website, texting, platforms for kids to self-report. The on-line system is designed for mandated reporters and has not been promoted. Governor has a text-help line. Could this be an avenue or partnership. Tamela Atwood responded that the concern on reduced calls is shared by DCFS. DCFS is looking into this option. Utah may also have a model to review. Michigan has a bullying text line. Current on-line tool is not user friendly, intuitive, or accessible for the general public. Recommendation that the Task Force make a formal recommendation. Cassandra raised the concern of liability and follow-up for every call. Motioned and seconded. **Char to draft.**

Part of the investigative process as part of the Needs Assessment.

Telehealth - Make a formal recommendation that telehealth be covered and continued past the Emergency Shelter in Place order for youth in care and also children adopted from care.

XI. Parking Lot Items - None

XII. Upcoming Meetings

- August 12, 2020 (Quincy)
- November 12 (Chicagoland Area) Night Ministry, St. Charles as possible locations.
- February 10, 2021 (Peoria)
- May 12, 2021 – (Carbondale) To be determined.

XIII. Meeting adjourned at about 12:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rhiannon Torres, Secretary
Children's Justice Task Force